

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We are pleased to present the 2003-2004 edition of the *Kentucky Agricultural Statistics*. This publication represents a cooperative effort between the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and contains current statistics for Kentucky's \$3.5 billion agricultural industry.

The voluntary cooperation of thousands of farmers and agri-businesses, and the dedicated efforts of the KASS office staff in compiling the collected data, are essential for us to maintain reliable facts on the changes in Kentucky agriculture. A special thanks also goes to the dedicated staff of field and telephone enumerators who have spent many hours collecting data. These enumerators are our goodwill ambassadors to Kentucky's agricultural community.

We successfully completed the 2002 Census of Agriculture and released results for Kentucky in early June. Information from the AG Census was widely distributed to data users and data resources entities and portions are contained in this bulletin. The Census of Agriculture is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data tabulated for every county in the Nation. It is also the sole source of data for farms classified by size, tenure, type of organization, market value of farm products sold, and type of enterprise. I would like to personally thank all farm operators who took the time to complete a Census of Agriculture reporting form or spoke with one of our representatives regarding the AG Census.

This book is only one of many ways to receive statistical reports on Kentucky agriculture. Please visit our website at www.nass.usda.gov/ky and view all our reports there. Reports can be delivered free to your e-mail address, or hardcopy reports are available for a small fee. Please contact us anytime with your questions, comments and requests for information. The staff of the Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service is dedicated to serving the agricultural data needs of all users.